

Concept Note
**UNEP's Roundtable Session on Implementing Alternatives to Methyl Bromide in
Developing Countries**

At
**International Research Conference on Methyl Bromide Alternatives and
Emissions Reductions
1-4 November 1999**

CONCEPT NOTE

Background Note:

Methyl bromide was listed as an ozone depleting substance (ODS) at the 4th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1992. At the 9th Meeting of the Parties, held in Montreal in 1997, a global phase-out schedule for methyl bromide was established. Article 5 countries are required to freeze consumption and production of methyl bromide by 2002, reduce it by 20% in 2005 and phase out by 2015.

UNEP's Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee has identified alternatives for the vast majority of methyl bromide uses, including chemical and non-chemical uses. Effective, economically viable and environmentally sound alternatives include solarization, soil amendments, biological controls and crop rotation as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system. Alternatives must be adapted to meet local farming conditions. Farmer education and training programmes will be needed to promote widespread adoption of alternatives.

The Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund is providing technical and financial assistance to developing countries to assist them in meeting the methyl bromide phase-out requirements. Funded activities include demonstration and investment projects to identify and adopt effective alternatives and non-investment projects that include initiation of policy dialogues, information exchange, and training and education programmes. About 50 demonstration projects are currently underway to identify and evaluate alternatives for major uses.

Purpose:

- To increase awareness about methyl bromide alternatives in developing countries and activities promoting adoption of alternatives.
- To provide a forum for sharing experiences and lessons learned in the identification and implementation of alternatives in both developing and developed countries.
- To identify policy and institutional barriers preventing the adoption of alternatives.
- To identify training and other assistance activities needed to promote broad adoption of alternatives in developing countries.

Content:

This session will focus on reviewing progress made to implement methyl bromide alternatives in developing countries. Each participant will have 5 minutes to summarize their experiences and lessons learned in implementing alternatives to methyl bromide. Alternatives that are already successfully used by farmers and others in the agricultural community will be highlighted. A structured discussion will follow focusing on needed technology transfer and training activities to promote broad adoption of alternatives.

Expected Outputs:

- 1). Meeting Recommendations on approaches needed for promoting broad adoption of alternatives in developing countries
- 2). Report of the Roundtable Session

Participants: Technical experts and researchers, implementing agencies involved in demonstration projects, policymakers and farmers.